



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KC MAN ADMITS TO USING ILLEGALLY OBTAINED COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY TO BUY NARCOTICS**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today admitting to illegally obtaining and passing counterfeit currency in Kansas City and St. Joseph, Mo.

**James L. Ragsdale**, 26, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to the charge contained in a March 4, 2005, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Ragsdale** admitted that he obtained approximately \$1,000 in counterfeit \$20 bills in September 2004, knowing that the money was counterfeit. **Ragsdale** also admitted that he used the counterfeit currency to make narcotics purchases in Kansas City and St. Joseph. In making the purchases, **Ragsdale** admitted that he intended to defraud those who accepted the counterfeit currency by presenting it as if the counterfeit currency were genuine Federal Reserve Notes of the United States Treasury.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Ragsdale** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the St. Joseph, Mo., Police Department, the Leawood, Kan., Police Department and the United States Secret Service.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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